Conversion of Raw Scores to Scale Scores

This is a reminder to *BEST Literacy* and *BEST Plus* test administrators, scorers, and trainers that raw scores attained on any form of *BEST Literacy* or the print-based version of *BEST Plus* must be converted to scale scores for comparability across forms for each test and for reporting purposes under the National Reporting System (NRS). Scale scores, not raw scores, are the true representation of students' proficiency and are the only way that scores can be compared and that student progress can be measured accurately.

Detailed instructions for obtaining a scale score for each assessment are given below.

BEST Literacy

BEST Literacy has three parallel examinee test booklet forms (B, C, and D). To ensure that scores from each of the booklets are comparable to scores on the other booklets and for federal reporting, the raw scores obtained with each booklet must be converted to scale scores.

To obtain a *BEST Literacy* scale score follow these steps:

1. **Score the test** and record each item's raw score for the reading and writing sections in the spaces provided on the scoring sheet that corresponds to the test form.

2. **Total the raw scores** on the scoring sheet by first totaling the reading raw scores and then the writing raw scores. Enter the total raw score in the appropriate space marked "Total Raw Score" on the scoring sheet.

3. *Convert the raw scores to scale scores.*
   a. Find the correct Score Conversion Table for the form of the test that was used (B, C, or D). **(See Appendix B of the 2006 *BEST Literacy Test Manual.*)**
   b. On the Score Conversion Table, locate the raw score for the reading section of the test.
   c. On the Score Conversion Table, in the column to the right of the raw score, find the corresponding scale score and write it in the place indicated on the scoring sheet.
   d. Repeat steps b and c for the writing section.

4. **Add the two scale scores** (reading and writing) into a single total scale score for measuring student performance or for accountability reporting.

5. Finally, if reporting scores, use the Student Performance Level (SPL) and NRS charts located in **Appendix C, D, and E of the 2006 *BEST Literacy Test Manual*** to determine the proper SPL or NRS level based on the scale score.

*BEST Plus**

Semi-adaptive print-based version

The semi-adaptive print-based version of *BEST Plus* has three parallel forms (Examinee Test Booklets A, B, and C.) The test administrator scores the test, using the *BEST Plus* Scoring Rubric, and circles the scores in the Examinee Test Booklet. These scores must be entered into the *BEST Plus Score Management Software* located on the maroon test CD to receive a scale score. As a reminder, the tables that are found in the back cover of each *Examinee Test Booklet* which show estimated Student Performance Levels (SPLs) are not meant to serve as a substitute for this data entry. They are provided for rough, on-the-spot placement of students only. Only scale scores are comparable across all three forms (A, B, and C) and reportable for accountability purposes.

Note: To generate a final scale score, scores from the examinee test booklet must be entered into the *Score Management Software* using the *BEST Plus Test CD*. Use of the *BEST Plus Administrator Practice CD* will produce a blank score report.

To obtain a scale score for the semi-adaptive print-based version of *BEST Plus,* follow these steps:

1. **Click on the "Score PB Version" tab** from the main screen to begin the process of entering student information and results from the semi-adaptive print-based version directly into the *BEST Plus Scores Database*.

2. **A reminder will appear on the screen** showing how many tests have been administered on this computer and how many test administrations are left. (Note: Producing a score report will subtract one test administration from the total remaining.)

3. **Click the "OK, continue" button or add administrations if necessary**. Note that a complimentary scoring administration is automatically credited for each print-based *Examinee Test Booklet* purchased.

4. *Enter the basic information from the examinee test booklet* of the student you are scoring. (Note: If the students, administrators, classes, or sites are already present in your computer's scores database, you can insert them from their respective lists by clicking on the text box next to each category or by adding new information by clicking the "Add New" button.)

5. **Click on the "Next Page"** button to continue once all required information is entered.

6. **Choose the correct form and level** on the next screen by clicking on the letters and numbers on the screen.

7. **Enter the scores** from the semi-adaptive print-based version of *BEST Plus* by using the number keys to select a score.

8. **Click the "Verify Entries**" button or "Enter" key when you have finished entering the required scores.

9. **A dialog box will appear to confirm that you are ready to proceed**. A verification screen will ask you to reenter the data from the previous screen to make sure that all of the scores have been entered correctly.

10. **Reenter the information** as you did on the previous screen in order to confirm the data. If you make a mistake, an error message will appear to tell you which score was just entered and what score was entered originally. You can change the mismatched score to the one you just entered by clicking the "Yes" key. If you want to return to the verification screen and reenter the score, click the "no" button.

11. **When all your scores have been entered correctly, click the "Next Page" button**.

12. Once all the information has been entered, the screen "Ready to Score a Test" will appear. **Click "Score Test" to calculate the final score.**

13. **The final screen will display the student's score report**. If you wish to print a copy, click "Print" to print the displayed score report.

14. **Click "Return to Main Score PB Version Page"** to enter another student's score or to return to the "Score PB Version" tab.

*Note: The computer-adaptive version of *BEST Plus* automatically scales the examinee's raw score. All *BEST Plus* scores appear as scale scores, and no other score conversion is needed.

For More Information

If you have any questions about scoring or other questions relating to *BEST Plus or BEST Literacy,* visit our Web site or contact us: www.best-plus.net, www.cal.org/best, Center for Applied Linguistics www.cal.org

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